

# 'I used to help...'

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chores. And, because of her bronchitis, she has trouble breathing. Still, she remains independent. "I am lonesome here, but I would rather stay here than in somebody's else's house," she says.

Mrs. Jones attends Bethlehem Holiness Church, and says church members offer her assistance, such as providing transportation to the supermarket. She says she receives about \$188 monthly in Social Security benefits, paying \$80 of it for rent, \$70 for electricity and gas. The remainder, \$38 per month, is spent on food.

"I have been living alone most of my life and I don't want to leave this house," says Mrs. Jones.

Irma Hairston, her neighbor, says she was forced to seek help for Mrs. Jones because she often wouldn't clean her house for months, and because Hairston lives in the other duplex apartment in Jones' house. "I don't mind cooking for her, but sometimes she will not let me help," Hairston says.

Hairston says other neighbors started noticing the problem during the last year. They complained to the landlord, Philip Johnson of T.E. Johnson Realty, but Hairston says he didn't do anything about it.

Johnson says he can't be responsible for tenants who don't keep their houses clean.

"It should be very obvious there are only certain things we can do," Johnson says.

After receiving the complaints, Johnson says, he referred the case to the Forsyth County Social Services Department. But social worker Jan Wilson, who eventually was assigned to the case, says she was unaware of any contact about the Jones case before Hairston brought it to the department's attention.

Charles King, assistant director of the county Health Department, says he doesn't recall receiving any complaints from neighbors about the residence. One of his department's responsibilities is to review insect and rodent infestation problems.

When the department is notified about similar cases, King says, referrals often are made to the Adult Protective Services unit of the Social Services Department.

Joe A. Livingston, sanitarian supervisor for the Health Department's Division of Environmental Health, says he can't legally enter a home without the consent of the resident.

"We deal with problems that affect the neighborhood as a whole," Livingston says. "We can't go inside a house unless invited."

But Brenda Powell, supervisor of the Adult Protective Services unit, says her office can provide some services for Mrs. Jones.

After receiving an inquiry, the department can visit the client for an interview, she says. After reviewing the case, a worker can assign the case to one of several units in the Adult Protective Services unit.

Powell says the unit encompasses several divisions, including the Adult Foster Home, Home Health Service and Self-Support Services.

Suzanne Merrill, the Home Health Services supervisor, says she assigned Jan Wilson to review the Jones case. But Merrill declined to discuss particular aspects of the case.

When the Social Services Department determines that a client has a housecleaning problem, Merrill says, a worker visits weekly to help the client with the cleaning. Also, the client is advised about how to approach housecleaning chores step by step.

The Home Health Services unit, Merrill says, works with the client as long as necessary to correct the problem.

Powell says the state's adult protective services law gives the department flexibility in helping elderly people who aren't able to care for themselves, but doesn't allow workers to enter a home unless the client or a legal guardian consents.

In cases where a person is determined to be incapable of caring for himself, Powell says, the department must work with a legal guardian to have the elderly person put in a nursing home. But the courts rarely order a person to be placed in a nursing home or any other institution.

Powell says she can't think of any recent cases where the courts have ordered a person into a nursing home because the person was incapable of caring for himself.

Meanwhile, Hairston wonders if the help Mrs. Jones will receive will be enough.

"I am really surprised she hasn't gotten seriously ill," Hairston says, noting the condition of the elderly woman's home.

"I don't mind helping her clean up, but you never know when she'll stop you from coming in the house."

"I am still worried about her," Hairston says, "because if a fire breaks out in the apartment, she would not be able to escape in time."

# Residents oppose apartments

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"We in the Carver area would like to go on record as totally against any rezoning for dwellings in the Carver area," Jones said. If the apartments are constructed, she predicted, more neighborhood crime, more undesirable living conditions and lower property values will result.

Selina Nichols, president of the Monticello Park Community Club, said her group had joined with the Pom Land-Oak Hill Community Club to organize opposition to the project.

And Willie A. Golden, who said he's lived across the street from the proposed apartment site since 1970, criticized the developers for moving ahead with the plans without input from the area's residents.

"They didn't even consult with the community or anybody," Golden said. The residents learned of the plans only after the city-county planning board posted a sign on the lot notifying the public that it was considering a change in the property's zoning designation, he said.

Golden said a petition opposing the project was signed by 25 Berl Street residents and presented to city officials shortly afterward. Another petition opposing the development, this one with 75 signatures, was presented to Alderman Vivian Burke Monday night.

"We want people to have decent housing," the original petition stated, "but we feel apartments are not the answer. Most of the homes in this area are well-

kept, single-family housing and this is the way we would like for it to remain."

About 55 Carver residents met Sept. 13 to organize resistance to the planned development. One of them, Mrs. Hilton Coley of Berl Street, voiced their opposition before the city-county planning board, which recommended approval of the project.

Mrs. Coley said it wasn't the first time developers have tried to get clearance for such a project.

"A couple of years back, they wanted to build more than 100 apartments," she said. "Now, they want to build 96."

Willi Kennedy, wife of one of the Northgate Associates investors, spoke on their behalf, saying one of them had to be out of town Monday night and had asked for the postponement.

The primary investors are black, including Tom Trollinger, Dr. Charlie Kennedy and Simon Johnson.

City planners recommended approval of the rezoning request with the following conditions:

- The developers must install gravel turnarounds at the end of Freddy and Frankie streets before issuance of occupancy permits.
- The developers must pave Berl Street to the eastern boundary of the property to comply with city standards.
- The developers must install a temporary "T" turnaround at the end of Berl St. before the issuance of occupancy permits.
- The developers must provide city-approved trash dumpsters.
- The developers must install

# Realignment

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"They wanted to put North Hills into my area," she said, "but he (North Ward Alderman Larry Little) asked to keep that area. I would have liked to have had it, but he didn't want to lose it."

Carroll, the planning director, has told the aldermen they should adopt new ward boundaries no later than Jan. 21, 1985, to allow the Board of Elections to make the necessary preparations for next year's aldermanic elections.

"If we have a meeting next week," Womble said, "I'm sure we'll have something by January."

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